

except on the ground of haste or carelessness, since they are duly recorded on unquestionable authority in the works referred to by the authors in their preface,—*e. g.*, *Picoides arcticus*, *Otocoris alpestris*, *Empidonax flaviventris*, *Quiscalus quiscula cæneus*, *Ammodramus henslowi*, *Melospiza lincolni*, *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*, *Sciurus motacilla*, *Anthus pennsylvanicus*, etc. *Larus argentatus* should of course be *L. argentatus smithsonianus*. The list is attractively gotten up, and is remarkably free from typographical errors; yet it is marred by a blemish one would hardly look for in a scientific publication of the present day, namely, the use of capital initial letters for *all* specific and subspecific names. Evidently the authors allowed their own good judgment to be swayed by the bad counsels of the printer.—J. A. A.

**Merriam's List of Birds observed in Idaho.\***—The ornithological results of Dr. Merriam's 'Biological Reconnoissance of south-central Idaho' during the season of 1890, consists of an annotated list of 158 species, 94 of them recorded for the first time for the State, and the discovery of a new Owl, allied to *Megascops flammcolus*, and named *M. flammcolus idahoensis*. This new form differs from *M. flammcolus* in being smaller and paler. A well-executed colored plate accompanies the description. Besides the general list there is a special 'List of Birds noted in the Saw Tooth Mountains, at or near Saw Tooth or Alturas Lake, September 25 to October 4, 1890' (pp. 19, 20), numbering 43 species, and various references to birds of particular localities in the general introduction.

As stated by Dr. Merriam, Idaho has thus far remained a veritable *terra incognita*, so far as detailed knowledge of its natural history is concerned, less being known of it than of any other State or Territory in the Union. The present report on the work done there during the season of 1890 occupies about 120 octavo pages (North American Fauna, No. 5), of which about 30 are devoted to an exposition of the physical characters and life zones of the region explored, and about 60 to a detailed report on the mammals obtained, of which 12 of the 67 species here enumerated are described as new. It is needless to say that much light is thrown upon the physical features of the region and their relation to its faunal and floral characteristics. Considering the limited time spent in field work and the small force of assistants employed, a surprisingly large amount of work was accomplished.—J. A. A.

**Maynard's 'Contributions to Science.'**†—The 'Contributions' contain articles relating to nearly all branches of natural history. Only the fol-

\*Annotated List of Birds observed in Idaho during the Summer and Fall of 1890, with Notes on Species previously recorded from the State. By Dr. C. Hart Merriam. North American Fauna, No. 5, July 1890, pp. 89-108.

†Contributions to Science. By Charles J. Maynard. Illustrated with hand-colored plates, drawn on stone by the Author. Vol. I, "April, 1889-Jan. 1890." Newtonville, Mass.: Published by the Author. 8vo. pp. 204, pl. xvi. with numerous cuts in the text. [No. 3, dated "October, 1889," was received March 24, 1890; No. 4, dated "January, 1890," was received April 2, 1891.]